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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,962	01/31/2005	Catherine J. Pachuk	NUCL-017/01US 306512-2070	6915
58249	7590	04/04/2008	EXAMINER	
COOLEY GODWARD KRONISH LLP			ZARA, JANE J	
ATTN: Patent Group			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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			PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/522,962	PACHUK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jane Zara	1635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-154 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-154 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 25, 26, 33, 36, 42, 45, 46, 54-76, 88, 117-154 are pending in the instant application.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1, 6, 10, 16, 17, 33, 36, 42, 45, 46, 54-56, drawn to nucleic acid constructs comprising a first and second base-paired region and a loop, classifiable in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- II. Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 11, 19, 25, 26, 117-119, drawn to nucleic acid constructs comprising two base-paired regions targeting two regions of interest, classifiable in class 536, subclass 24.5.
- III. Claims 75, 120-140, drawn to nucleic acid constructs comprising two base-paired regions that are complementary to each other, classifiable in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- IV. Claims 5, 141-151, drawn to nucleic acid constructs comprising at least partially double stranded multiple epitope dsRNA comprising non-contiguous dsRNA segments, classifiable in class 435, subclass 91.1.
- V. Claim 57, drawn to a method for generating an RNA hairpin comprising transcribing nucleic acid constructs comprising a first and second base-paired region and a loop, classifiable in class 435, subclass 6.

VI. Claims 58-74, 76, 88, 152, drawn to methods of transcribing nucleic acid constructs comprising two base-paired regions targeting two regions of interest, classifiable in class 435, subclass 375.

VII. Claims 153, 154, drawn to methods of inhibiting expression of a target gene comprising administration of nucleic acid constructs comprising at least partially double stranded multiple epitope dsRNA comprising non-contiguous dsRNA segments, classifiable in class 435, subclass 91.31.

- Applicants are additionally required to elect a single disease or disorder from the elected Group (Claims 7, 8, 73, 74, 76, 88, 143, 144).

Please Note: These are not species elections.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions comprising the different nucleic acid molecules of Groups I –IV are biologically and functionally different and distinct from each other and thus one does not render the other obvious. The products of each Group are not required for the methods steps of the other Groups. The operation, function and effects of the different polynucleotides are completely different from each other in sequence and chemical structure, and distinct from the operation, function and effects of the methods of each other. In the instant case, the inventions as claimed are chemically, biologically, functionally and structurally distinct and different (different polynucleotide structures, different sequences). One is not needed for the other and each can be used for a

different purpose (e.g. as molecule weight markers in electrophoresis or hybridization probes). Furthermore, the inventions as claimed do not encompass overlapping subject matter and there is nothing of record to show them to be obvious variants.

Therefore, the inventions of these different, distinct groups are capable of supporting separate patents.

Inventions V, VI and VII are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the methods of these different Groups are unrelated as they comprise distinct steps and utilize different products, and produce different biological outcomes, which demonstrate that each method has a different mode of operation. The methodology and materials necessary for each of these distinct methods differ significantly: methods of the different nucleic acid sequences and inhibitory molecules claimed constitute chemically, biologically and functionally different and distinct molecules or chemical entities. Therefore, each method is divergent in materials and steps. For these reasons the inventions of V, VI and VII are patentably distinct.

Furthermore, the distinct steps and products require separate and distinct searches, each requiring a separate search for the steps and molecules involved in the various methods steps. The searches required for each of the methods would not be coextensive with each other. For these reasons, it would be burdensome to search the

inventions of Groups of V-VII together, and including each of the nucleic acid molecules claimed.

Inventions I-IV and V-VII are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the polynucleotides of Groups IIV can be used as hybridization probes.

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejections are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowances are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise

proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See “Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b),” 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1635 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. ' 1.6(d)). The official fax telephone number for the Group is 571-273-8300. NOTE: If Applicant does submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane Zara whose telephone number is (571) 272-0765. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Douglas Schultz, can be reached on (571) 272-0763. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jane Zara
3-27-08

/Jane Zara/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1635